

February 5, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding 03-16

Dear Ms. Dortch:

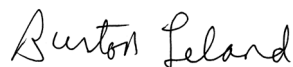
I strongly support SBC's application to compete for long distance customers in Michigan. Increasing competition will bring greater value to consumers and give them the same choices that residents in more than a dozen states already are enjoying. As a lifelong resident of Michigan and a State Senator, I am well aware of the need for fair and full telecommunications competition.

Throughout my tenure serving the state of Michigan, I have taken a particular interest in consumer protection issues. Protecting consumer's interest means giving them the power to choose, the power to save money and the freedom to secure the best deals for their lifestyles. Granting SBC's long distance application will do exactly that.

I commend the Michigan Public Service Commission for ensuring Michigan's local telephone market is open to competition. It is my hope I can commend the FCC in the same way. In the past two years we've seen local competition grow to twenty percent in Michigan. In addition, it's my understanding that SBC received good grades on the company's systems that support local phone competition.

I encourage the MPSC to support SBC's 271 long distance application and look forward to FCC approval. The sooner SBC begins competing for long distance customers, the sooner Michigan residents can enjoy lower phone bills, one stop shopping, and the freedom to make more choices.

Sincerely,



BURTON LELAND
State Senator

BL/kp